

# ERIE-NIAGARA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

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## Co-Chairs:

Hon. Clyde Burmaster

Hon. William A. Pauly

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** ENRP Chairs Burmaster & Pauly  
**From:** ENRP Transportation Subcommittee Chair Samuel Ferraro  
**Re:** October, 2001 subcommittee meeting  
**Date:** December 7, 2001

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The Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership's Transportation Subcommittee met October 12, 2001 at Christino's at the Amherst Marriott. Present for the meeting were Subcommittee members Ferraro, Morse (proxy), and Wendel.

Subcommittee Chair Ferraro reported that the second meeting of the group working on regional planning was held on October 11. The Erie County Executive convened a group of around 30 people from the planning profession with a goal of re-creating a regional process for planning. Some of those involved were Larry Rubin, Legislator Weinstein, John Bis, John Sheffer, planners, and local officials. The ENRP was mentioned in the discussions. A subgroup of Ferraro, De Santis, Bis, Sheffer, Rubin, and Gillard was formed to develop a mission statement, a "plan for the plan," funding arrangements, and possibly hire a consultant. It has been recognized that the private sector and local governments must also become involved. Finally, Ferraro noted that although Andrew Rudnick wants to see county-wide planning, this group is against that.

The first meeting of the Bi-National Economic Development Roundtable was held on October 4. The group is looking to hold six forums (three in Canada and three in the US) to look at bi-national issues. Each meeting will be themed (tourism, transportation, etc.). Bob Rich is heading up the US effort, although the process will be heavily staff driven. A consultant may also be hired to assist in the effort.

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**Members:** Hon. John Connolly \* Hon. Albert DeBenedetti \* Mr. Thomas Dziedzic \* Mr. Brian Eldridge \* Hon. Bradley Erck \* Mr. Samuel Ferraro \* Hon. John Greenan \* Mr. Clyde Johnston \* Mr. Thomas Kucharski \* Ms. Maria Lehman \* Hon. Peter McMahon \* Hon. Gerald Meal \* Mr. Hal Morse \* Hon. Sean O'Connor \* Hon. Crystal Peoples \* Mr. Lawrence Rubin \* Mr. David Rutecki \* Mr. Kevin Schuler \* Mr. John Simon \* Hon. Robert Villani \* Hon. Barry Weinstein, M.D. \* Mr. Peter Wendel \* Ad Hoc: Ms. Cyd Bennett, Mr. Richard Geiger, Mr. Luke Rich, Mr. Stan Rydelek

ENRP Transportation minutes (cont).

The four bike trail proposals begun last year were discussed. They are the Amherst Canal Trailway (Phase III) in Amherst, the Erie Canal Recreationway in Pendleton and Lockport, the Lehigh Valley RR in the Town of Tonawanda, and Creekside Drive in the Town of Tonawanda. Funding applications are due in November, 2001. Subcommittee member Morse informed the group that all four projects are “in the mix.” GBNRTC is working to incorporate this program with the shoreline hike / bike trail to fill in the blanks in terms of trails in the two counties. The applications are due November 1.

Other topics discussed included cross-border transportation, the Route 531 West Corridor, and Western New York corridor studies.